

EDUCATION (IRELAND).



The ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, to
His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT, for the Year ending 25 March 1844.

Pursuant to Act of Parliament, 53 Geo. 3, c. 107, s. 3.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THOMAS PHILIP EARL DE GREY,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
AND GENERAL-GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, constituted and appointed by an Act of Parliament made in the 53d year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, do, in obedience thereunto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a general Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

In the management and course of instruction pursued in the different public and private endowed Schools under our superintendence, no material alteration has been made by us since we submitted our last Report to your Excellency.

At the Royal School of Enniskillen, a dangerous disease having broken out amongst the pupils, the infirmary attached thereto, and which we had erected within the last few years, proved of the most salutary importance, by enabling the master, on the first appearance of any symptoms, to place the infected pupil in a building separated from the School-house, and thus preventing the spread of the malady.

Thinking it prudent however for the future, and satisfactory to the parents of the pupils attending the School, that the entire establishment should undergo a thorough cleansing and ventilation, for the purpose of destroying any remains of infection, we, at the suggestion of the master, in the course of last spring, permitted the pupils to be dismissed until the conclusion of the usual summer vacation, a proportionable reduction being made in the half-yearly charges; and in consequence of the number of pupils residing in this establishment, and with a view to ensuring as much as possible personal cleanliness, particularly amongst the younger boys, we have, on the application of the head-master, and under the superintendence of our architect, at an expense of about 400*l.*, fitted up an extensive washing-room for that purpose; and during the vacation we took the necessary precautions to have the house purified by general internal painting, whitewashing and cleaning.

At the Royal Schools of Armagh, Cavan and Raphoe, beyond the usual general superintendence, and keeping the houses in proper repair, we have nothing calling for particular remark to state to your Excellency.

The Royal School of Dungannon, which is reported to us to be in a state of perfect repair, continues to be attended by a very considerable number of pupils.

The selection to fill the vacancy in the mastership of the Royal School of Banagher of a gentleman bearing such a high literary character as that appointed by your Excellency, will we trust ensure to that neighbourhood the benefit of a good and efficient school.

The report made to us of the condition of Carysfort Royal School, which is one for the poorer classes solely, is also satisfactory.

We

We beg to submit to your Excellency the following list of Queen's or Royal Scholars appointed by us since our last Report :

Armagh.

Twigg, J. J., a Royal Scholarship of 50*l.* per annum for five years.

Dungannon.

Higinbotham, George, a Royal Scholarship of 50*l.* per annum for five years.

McGorley, H., a Royal Scholarship of 30*l.* per annum for five years.

Armstrong, W., a Royal Scholarship of 30*l.* per annum for two years.

Enniskillen.

Weir, W. R., a Royal Scholarship of 50*l.* per annum for five years.

Halpin, W. H., a Royal Scholarship of 30*l.* per annum for five years.

Watson, Thomas, a Royal Scholarship of 30*l.* per annum for three years.

McDonald, R., promoted to 50*l.* per annum for two years.

Middleton Private Endowment.

Sullivan, E., a prize of 30*l.*

And we have the satisfaction to report, that the Court of Examiners appointed by the University have stated to us, that the general answering of the candidates (including a *viva voce* examination in History, sacred and profane), was very creditable both to the candidates and to their respective teachers.

At Eyrecourt, which is a School of private foundation, we have, with the sanction of the patrons, made a small additional outlay on the house; and at our request the patrons have appointed a gentleman to fill the vacancy in the mastership caused by your Excellency's promotion of the late master to the mastership of the Royal School of Banagher.

Amongst the Classical Schools of private foundation, those of Clonmel, Carrickmacross, Ballyroan and Bandon continue to be the most successful.

The School of Tullyvin, also one of private foundation, and which is intended for the humbler classes, appears, from the very great numbers in attendance, to be very successful in effecting the intentions of the founder.

A very considerable portion of our time and attention has been directed to the management of the estates and tenantry under our control.

Those of Armagh and Dungannon continue in the same prosperous condition that we have heretofore more than once reported; on the latter, where a small annual rent was charged by us for a right of fishing in Lough Neagh, and the assertion of the right to which we have been unable to bring before a legal tribunal, and which had given rise to some dissatisfaction between our tenantry and those of the neighbouring proprietors, we have thought it more prudent to abandon our claim for rent, and to permit the tenantry generally to enjoy the right of fishing gratuitously.

Our attention has been much directed to the Enniskillen and Cavan School-estates, the former of which (having for a length of time been much subdivided and occupied by a very numerous class of cottier tenants), we felt required the superintendence of a young and active agent; and we accordingly, having induced our former agent to resign, selected to succeed him a gentleman who produced to us, from other landed proprietors, high testimonials of his character, diligence and ability; and we have directed him to make an inspection of this estate and tenantry generally, and to report to us his views and suggestions thereon.

With regard to the Raphoe School-estate, we regret to be obliged to inform your Excellency, that the agent selected by us for the management of this estate, which has but recently come under our control, and which in the hands of the late lessee was in a state of total insubordination, has, in consequence of the difficulties he anticipates in the agency of this estate, resigned his office; and being obliged to select one more likely to cope with the difficulties of this estate,

we,

we, on the recommendation of an intelligent landed proprietor of that county, have appointed another agent.

On the Navan and Ballyroan School-estate, several of the tenantry having presented to us repeated memorials complaining of their accounts and the management of this estate, we, in compliance with their wishes, deputed from Dublin a harrister to hold an investigation into their accounts on the spot, and to report on each case to us, which he has accordingly done; but in consequence of the period at which the report reached us, we are not enabled to forward our decision to your Excellency in the present Report.

In the reports furnished to us by the Diocesan Schoolmasters generally, we find a statement of the difficulty of procuring funds for the necessary repairs of the school-houses.

Since the date of our last Report, we have paid to the Teller of the Exchequer, 77*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, being the fourteenth instalment of money advanced by Government for the repairs of Raphoe School-house; and in the case of Clonmel we have paid a sum of 240*l.*, being the eleventh instalment of Government advance for building that School-house.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(Signed.) EDWARD MEATH. (L. S.)
FRANC SADLEIR. (L. S.)
J. MACKKINNON. (L. S.)
CHARLES KILDARE. (L. S.)
JAMES WILSON. (L. S.)
J. G. PORTER. (L. S.)
C. R. ELINGTON. (L. S.)
ROBERT SHAW. (L. S.)

8, Clare-street.

W^m Cotter Klye, LL.D.,
Secretary.